

## House Resolution 143

By: Representatives Cooper of the 41<sup>st</sup>, Channell of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Lane of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Walker of the 107<sup>th</sup>, and Millar of the 79<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Renal Coalition and proclaiming January 31, 2007, "Georgia  
2 Dialysis Day" at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, approximately 12,593 Georgia residents rely on dialysis services to function for  
4 failed kidneys; and

5 WHEREAS, African Americans make up 70 percent of those relying on dialysis as life  
6 sustaining treatment and 58 percent of new patients starting dialysis in Georgia during 2005;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, 39 percent of Georgia kidney failure patients suffer from diabetes and 35  
9 percent suffer from high blood pressure; and

10 WHEREAS, there are over 69,000 patients waiting for a kidney transplant in the United  
11 States and 1,534 of these patients live in Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, transplantation is severely limited due to the shortage of suitable donors, organ  
13 transplant rejection, and the age and health of many end stage renal disease patients; most  
14 patients must remain on dialysis for the remainder of their lives; and

15 WHEREAS, there is no coordinated effort between federal and state governments, health  
16 care professionals, dialysis providers, educators, and patient advocates to develop programs  
17 to identify members of high risk populations and implement programs to improve the  
18 management of chronic kidney disease and slow the progression to end stage renal disease;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the Medicaid dialysis treatment rate in Georgia only covers about 74 percent  
21 of the costs of providing dialysis treatment and most end stage renal disease patients rely on  
22 medicare and medicaid for their health care needs; and

1 WHEREAS, early intervention strategies can successfully delay or prevent dialysis  
2 dependence in the chronic kidney disease population; and

3 WHEREAS, delaying the need for dialysis will not only significantly enhance quality of life,  
4 it will also significantly reduce health care expenditures by the medicare and medicaid  
5 programs, private insurers, and the patients themselves.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
7 the members of this body join in commending the Georgia Renal Coalition for its responsible  
8 leadership and commitment to the citizens of Georgia and proclaim January 31, 2007, as  
9 "Georgia Dialysis Day" at the state capitol.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
11 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Renal Coalition.